(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by Government to recover the said amount from the officers involved; and

(d) the steps taken to make the system fool-proof so that the officers do not get involved in such unfair activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No case of fraud amounting to lakhs of rupees during the last one year (since December, 2004) by the serving/ex-officers of the Corporation has come to the notice of ITDC management.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Agreements on Development of **Tourism**

3012. SHRI **N.R.** GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with foreign countries under the open sky policy in tourism sector;

(b) if so, the number of foreign tourists estimated in the coming years under this agreement;

(c) the number of tourists arrived in the country during the last year; and

(d) whether any scheme is being formulated for providing facilities to the tourists and also development of tourist spots in the country to make India a leading tourist destination in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) While Government has gradually liberalized the traffic entitlements on foreign routes, no 'open sky' policy as such has been adopted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of foreign tourist arrivals to India in the year 2004 were 33,67,980.

(d) Development and improvement of facilities at tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the state concerned every year, under the following schemes:—

- Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits
- Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development
- Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

Tourism Projects in Tamil Nadu

3013. SHRI EM. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tourism projects in Tamil Nadu were under consideration in the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof, place-wise and district-wise;

(c) the number of projects sanctioned and pending as on date;

(d) by when the projects are likely to be given approval; and

(e) the Central aid sought and that actually given to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of places/spots of tourist interest, is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with them. On receipt of the proposals, complete in ail respect, these are appraised for assistance keeping in view *inter-se-priorities* among projects, and availability of funds under the respective head.

The following projects were sanctioned during 2004-05 for integrated development of tourism in Tamil Nadu: